



CITY OF WATERTOWN

SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date: 09/20/2023

Location: 124 Orchard Street or virtual

Subject: Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Committee (SWARC) Meeting

- I. Attendance - Meeting started at 5:03 PM
 - a. In person:
 - i. Eileen R
 - ii. Russ A
 - iii. Anya P
 - iv. Alex L
 - b. Virtual:
 - i. Judy F
 - ii. Michael A
 - iii. Meher
 - iv. Eileen Z
 - II. Minutes from previous 2 meetings
 - a. Reviewed & approved
 - III. New Information: Repair Café
 - a. Information sent to Anya from Amelia at Hatch: She identified some areas in which she thinks the DPW and Recycling Committee would be particularly helpful:
 - i. Running a "Can I recycle this?" table at the event, similar to the one you have at the Farmer's Market
 - ii. Sending any interested repair volunteers my way so that I can get them onboarded. Email ayoung@watertown-ma.gov
 - iii. Promoting the event once flyers are made
 1. We could make our own flyer, too, if we like
 - iv. Recording any community interest in repair that you receive, so that we can work with this information to plan future events
 - v. Providing any waste management guides that you may have on-hand, and collaborating or advising on more repair-related guides that we could make together
 - vi. Promoting any other City efforts that DPW and the Recycling Committee are part of
 - b. Volunteers to do the fixing
 - i. Can contribute one or two of our own folks
 - c. Planning meeting proposed for meeting to occur with Amelia, Anya, and a member of the committee sometime in October (not the week of October 9th, however)
 - d. They're very set on the Nov 26th date
 - i. Anya is not able
 - ii. No committee member is currently officially available; Alex can adjust plans if desired
 - IV. Additional Ideas for repair café & Farmer's market
 - a. Printout food waste information
 - b. Possible create a "quiz board"
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- V. Faire on the Square
 - a. If anyone is available to join Anya, please do!
 - b. Saltonstall Park, 11PM-4PM
 - c. No longer a zero waste event (as reported in May meeting minutes notes)
 - VI. Debrief: Arts and Culture event (in August)
 - a. Anya had difficulty getting volunteers and signage to make the event a Zero Waste event
 - b. As a result, it was not a zero waste event (i.e. no one was available to help folks manage waste)
 - VII. Farmer's Market
 - a. October 11th- Anya can't make it
 - i. Russ: 2:30-3:30
 - ii. Eileen: 3:30-4:30
 - iii. Alex 4:30-6
 - iv. Eileen will do the set up - she'll come at 1:30 to DPW to get things
 - VIII. Announcements & Discussion
 - a. 2nd Indigenous People's Day Sunday, October 1st, 1:30-5:00PM, Hosmer School
 - b. All food will be served in Black Earth approved compostable containers
 - c. Plastic Free Lunch Day - November 8th
 - i. Organized by Cafeteria Culture who provides of lots of information
 - ii. Stephanie V would love to do it
 - iii. What is their solution to plastic utensils?
 - 1. Bring your own from home
 - 2. Newton just passed a ban on balloon releases and a number of other plastic bans pertaining to businesses
 - a. Passed Monday night, Sep 17th
 - d. State government just passed a ban on plastic bottles provided by government orgs when safe drinking water is in place
 - e. Can we bring drinking fountains back to provide fresh water at parks
 - i. E.g. Lowell Park, Victory Field
 - ii. Turn on valve is missing
 - iii. Fresh Pond Community Gardens has them- what do they do to keep them sanitary
 - f. With the Repair Café unable to be a big partner ship with this group, what else is on our radar?
 - i. A possible recycling event - with more than just recycling. Include music, food, beer garden
 - ii. Wrapping paper event? What if we helped folks make their own wrapping paper or bags for giving gifts?
 - iii. 1st week in December event already happening: gift swap 1st Parish Watertown
 - iv. Compost update: getting about 40 sign-ups a month in new sign ups
 - IX. Adjourn: 5:43 PM
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